

Remarks

Claims 1-16 have been canceled, and claims 17-20 are pending.

This patent application is a divisional application of and claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/920,775 filed on July 31, 2001. During the prosecution of such parent patent application, the Examiner therein identified two patentably distinct groups of claims and issued a restriction requirement. Election in that parent case was made to Group II, claims 1-16.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant hereby elects to prosecute those claims directed to the previously identified Group I, claims 17-20, in the above-identified parent application and have amended the claims accordingly.

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims, namely claims 17-20, are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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2/4/04

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